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Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 /089 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:RAMCGUIRE:JWM
APPROVED BY AF/W:TWMSMITH
IO/UNP:LSTERMER
---------- 064865
R 312357Z AUG 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
INFO AMEMBASSY BISSAU
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 216296

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, CV, KS, KN, RQ

SUBJECT: CAPE VERDE AND THE KOREAN AND PUERTO RICO ISSUES
AT 31ST UNGA

REF: USUN 3323 (NOTAL)

1. DIRECTOR OFFICE WEST AFRICAN AFFAIRS AND DESK OFFICER
MET WITH CAPE VERDE AMBASSADOR TO US RAUL QUERIDO VARELA
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27 AUGUST TO DISCUSS US POSITIONS ON KOREA AND PUERTO RICO.

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BECAUSE OF VARELA'S UNFAMILIARITY WITH THE US SCENE, WE STRESSED THAT AMERICAN PEOPLE TAKE SERIOUSLY STANDS BY STATES ON UN ISSUES AND NOTED THAT POPULAR OPINION IN US TENDS TO JUDGE A NATION BY ITS SPEECHES AND VOTES IN UN. VARELA SAID HE DOES NOT EXPECT TO BE ACCREDITED TO UN AND ADDED THAT SOMETIMES POSITIONS IN UN DO NOT FOLLOW A STATE'S BASIC PHILOSOPHY.

2. ON PUERTO RICO, WE EXPRESSED HOPE VARELA WOULD HAVE CHANCE TO VISIT THERE SO HE COULD SEE TRUE STATE OF AFFAIRS. WE NOTED VOTE OF PR FOR COMMONWEALTH STATUS AND USG COMMITMENTS IN UN AND ELSEWHERE TO RIGHT OF PEOPLE OF PR TO HAVE ANY SORT OF RELATIONSHIP WITH US THEY DESIRE. WE STRESSED THAT PR IS NOT A COLONIAL ISSUE, AND WE REGARD ATTEMPTS TO PLAY PR AS A COLONIAL ISSUE AS INTERFERENCE IN

OUR INTERNAL AFFAIRS. VARELA ASKED IF CAPE VERDE HAD TAKEN A POSITION ON PUERTO RICO AND WAS INFORMED THAT IT HAS NOT BECAUSE PR HAS ONLY BEEN DISCUSSED IN THE COMMITTEE OF 24. WE ADDED THAT THIS YEAR PR MAY COME BEFORE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND EMPHASIZED THAT WE WANT ALL NATIONS TO KNOW THAT WE VIEW SERIOUSLY ANY DISCUSSION OF US-PR RELATIONS. VARELA SAID HE WOULD CONSULT WITH HIS GOVERNMENT ON THIS SUBJECT, AND ADDED THAT FROM HIS PERSONAL POINT OF VIEW HE BELIEVES IN THE WORKINGS OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY.

3. ON KOREA, WE PRESENTED VARELA WITH A COPY OF THE FRIENDLY RESOLUTION AND EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM (A/31/194) AND REVIEWED THE HISTORY OF THE KOREAN PENINSULA SINCE WORLD WAR II. WE STRESSED THE NEED FOR DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE CONCERNED PARTIES IN SEEKING RESOLUTION OF KOREA'S PROBLEMS, AND NOTED THAT WE CANNOT ACCEPT THE EXCLUSION OF SOUTH KOREA FROM SUCH DIALOGUE. WE ALSO STATED THAT WE CANNOT ACCEPT THE REMOVAL OF UN FORCES WITHOUT ADEQUATE PROVISION FOR THE PEACE AND SECURITY OF THE KOREAN PEOPLE. MENTION WAS MADE OF THE MURDER OF THE TWO US OFFICERS AS A PRIME EXAMPLE OF HEIGHTENED TENSIONS AND NEED FOR MECHANISMS TO KEEP PEACE. VARELA WAS TOLD THAT IT LIKELY CAPE VERDE WILL BE UNDER CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE TO CO-SPONSOR HOSTILE RESOLUTION, AS WAS CASE LAST YEAR. WE SAID WE WOULD BE CONFIDENTIAL

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DELIGHTED IF CV WOULD CO-SPONSOR FRIENDLY RESOLUTION, BUT THAT WE REALIZED THIS MIGHT BE DIFFICULT FOR CV TO DO. WE THEN STRESSED OUR HOPE THAT AT LEAST CV WOULD NOT CO-SPONSOR THE PRO-NORTH KOREA RESOLUTION, AS A DECISION TO CO-SPONSOR WOULD BE SEEN BY US PUBLIC AS A HOSTILE POSITION AGAINST THE US BY A NATION WHICH HAS LITTLE DIRECT INTEREST IN KOREA. WE EMPHASIZED THAT WE WERE MAKING THESE POINTS AS SIMPLY AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER THAT VARELA WOULD REALIZE

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THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO THE KOREAN ISSUE.

4. VARELA RESPONDED BY NOTING THAT CAPE VERDE IS A SMALL AND POOR NATION WHICH NEEDS TO PROCEED WITH CAUTION IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. HE SAID HE WOULD ADVISE HIS GOVERNMENT TO TAKE A POSITION OF NEUTRALITY ON KOREA ALONG THE LINES WE HAD JUST SUGGESTED.

5. COMMENT: VARELA HAS SPENT HIS CAREER AS A MAGISTRATE AND IS NEW TO THE WORKINGS OF INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMACY. WHILE WE BELIEVE HE WILL ACCURATELY REPORT US ATTITUDES ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES TO HIS GOVERNMENT, AND PERHAPS RECOMMEND THAT OUR POSITIONS ON SOME OF THESE ISSUES BE SUPPORTED BY CAPE VERDE, IT IS TOO EARLY TO TELL IF THE SENIOR OFFICIALS OF CAPE VERDE WILL BE SIMILARLY DISPOSED.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE216296
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RAMCGUIRE:JWM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760331-1223
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976081/aaaaaalb.tel
Line Count: 132
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 USUN NEW YORK 3323
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 APR 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <10 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CAPE VERDE AND THE KOREAN AND PUERTO RICO ISSUES AT 31ST UNGA
TAGS: PFOR, CV, KS, KN, RQ, UNGA
To: USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006